California Weather-Hydro Conditions during March 2017

As of March 31, 2017, statewide hydrologic conditions were as follows: precipitation, 175 percent of average to date; snow water content, 160 percent of average to date (160% of the April 1 index average); runoff, 240 percent of average to date; and reservoir storage, 115 percent of average to date.

Sacramento River Region unimpaired runoff, for Water Year 2017, observed through March 31, 2017 was about 26.4 million acre-feet (MAF), which is about 246 percent of average. In comparison to Water Year 2016, the observed Sacramento River Region unimpaired runoff through March 31, 2016 was about 12.2 MAF, or about 114 percent of average. San Joaquin River Region unimpaired runoff, for Water Year 2017, observed through March 31, 2017 was about 8.6 MAF, which is about 350 percent of average. In comparison to Water Year 2016, the observed San Joaquin River Region unimpaired runoff through March 31, 2016 was about 2.6 MAF, or about 106 percent of average. Tulare Lake Region unimpaired runoff, for Water Year 2017, observed through March 31, 2017 was about 2.5 MAF, which is about 282 percent of average. In comparison to Water Year 2016, the observed Tulare Lake Region unimpaired runoff through March 31, 2016 was about 0.6 MAF, or about 71 percent of average.

On March 31, 2017, the Northern Sierra 8-Station Precipitation Index Water Year total was 83.4 inches, which is about 200 percent of the seasonal average to date and 167 percent of an average water year (50.0 inches). During March, the total precipitation for the 8-Stations was 6.9 inches, or about 100 percent of average for the month. Last year on March 31, 2016, the Water Year 2016 seasonal total for the 8-Stations was 51.9 inches, or about 125 percent of average.

On March 31, 2017, the San Joaquin 5-Station Precipitation Index Water Year total was 64.9 inches, which is about 192 percent of the seasonal average to date and 159 percent of an average water year (40.7 inches). During March, the total precipitation for the 5-Stations was 4.3 inches, or about 70 percent of average for the month. Last year on March 31, 2016, the Water Year 2016 seasonal total for the 5-Stations was 35.8 inches, or about 106 percent of average.

On March 31, 2017, the Tulare Basin 6-Station Precipitation Index Water Year total was 43.2 inches, which is about 177 percent of the seasonal average to date and 147 percent of an average water year (29.2 inches). During March, the total precipitation for the 6-Stations was 2.3 inches, or about 48 percent of average for the month. Last year on March 31, 2016, the Water Year 2016 seasonal total for the 6-Stations was 23.7 inches, or about 97 percent of average.

Daily Precipitation (in inches) for Selected Stations as of 03/31/2017											
Station	Water Year 2017 to Mar 31, 2017	% Average	Water Year 2016 to Mar 31, 2016	% Average	WY 2017 % of Avg Water Year (Oct 1 – Sep 30)						
Mount Shasta	49.41	139	35.50	100	113						
Eureka	45.08	136	41.03	123	112						
Redding	40.81	143	31.85	111	118						
South Lake Tahoe	41.93	261	17.68	110	206						
Sacramento Executive Airport	29.90	186	14.72	92	161						
Santa Rosa (Sonoma Co AP)	53.32	166	28.65	89	147						
San Francisco	29.69	141	20.51	98	126						
Stockton	19.66	162	13.42	111	140						
Yosemite	67.77	216	32.32	103	179						
Monterey	22.81	162	20.64	147	142						
Paso Robles	13.10	115	7.21	63	103						
Fresno	13.66	141	12.87	133	119						
Bakersfield	7.39	133	3.91	71	114						
Death Valley	1.27	73	1.28	74	54						
Los Angeles	17.46	131	6.06	45	117						
Riverside	11.77	109	4.64	43	95						
Palm Springs	6.96	155	2.45	55	121						
San Diego	11.66	128	6.84	75	113						

Key Reservoir Storage (1,000 AF) as of 03/31/2017												
Reservoir	River	Storage	Avg Storage	% Average	Capacity	% Capacity	Flood Control Encroachment	Total Space Available				
Trinity Lake	Trinity	2,177	1,927	113	2,448	89		271				
Shasta Lake	Sacramento	4,031	3,691	109	4,552	89	616	521				
Lake Oroville	Feather	2,681	2,696	99	3,538	76	-118	857				
New Bullards Bar Res	Yuba	805	701	115	966	83	9	161				
Folsom Lake	American	591	628	94	977	60	-43	386				
New Melones Res	Stanislaus	1,812	1,510	120	2,400	75	-158	608				
Don Pedro Res	Tuolumne	1,760	1,483	119	2,030	87	503	270				
Lake McClure	Merced	696	565	123	1,025	68	72	329				
Millerton Lake	San Joaquin	204	366	56	520	39	-5	316				
Pine Flat Res	Kings	585	564	104	1,000	59	189	415				
Isabella	Kern	246	201	122	568	43	62	322				
San Luis Res	(Offstream)	2,015	1,846	109	2,041	99		24				

The latest National Weather Service Climate Prediction Center (CPC) long-range, 1-month precipitation outlook for April 2017, issued March 31, 2017, suggests above-average precipitation for northwestern California and average precipitation for the rest of the State.